Consumption of Fuel by the Vehicles in the Country

†*34. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on account of bad.condition of roads in the country, the vehicles consume more fuel than their required quantity;

(b) if so, by what percentage more fuel is consumed by the vehicles in our country as compared to the international avarage; and

(c) whether Government are going to formulate any time-bound plan and implement the same in order to avoid such type of loss being caused to the nation; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various factors like difference in vehicle technology, mixed traffic conditions, congestion etc. contribute to excess consumption of fuel. It cannot be compared with any international average.

(c) A Special maintenance programme has been launched in 1999-2000 to improve road condition in 8,000 Kms. of National Highways. Work has started on 4-laning on the golden quadrilateral and North-South and East-West Corridors. This project is likely to cost about Rs. 54,000 crores and will be completed in 10 years time by NHAI.

Satellite Telephones in Far-Flung Areas of Himachal Pradesh

*35. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether government propose to install satellite telephones in the far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh by INMARSAT Cooperative body of the foreign countries;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.